



RE Policy

1. General Principles

The Religious Education Department expects to play an important role in the moral, spiritual and academic development of students within the guidelines of the college's aims and objectives. The department is committed to an RE programme that is relevant to all students regardless of age, gender, ability or belief. The programme reflects the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic make up of the UK whilst attempting wherever possible to include the direction indicated by current legislation and DFES circulars.

2. Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act (1988) prescribes for all schools/colleges a basic curriculum comprising Religious Education and the National Curriculum.

Colleges should provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum which

- i) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society; and
 - ii) prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life [Section 2 (1)(a)].
- a) All registered students at a school, including sixth forms, are entitled to receive Religious Education [Section 2 (1)(a)].
 - b) In County Schools RE must be non-denominational and taught in accordance with the LA's Agreed Syllabus [Section 26 of the 1944 Act].
 - c) Any new Agreed Syllabus shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain [Section 8 (3)].
 - d) Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education [Section 9(3)].
 - e) A Headteacher is required under the Education (Individual Pupils' Achievements (Information) Regulations 1992 to send parents an annual written report on their child's progress. Unless a student has been withdrawn from RE, reports must contain details of the student's progress in RE.

Westwood College meets this legal requirement as follows:

- a) Students receive Religious Education classes in Years 9 – 11.
- b) The Religious Education programme, as outlined in the department's scheme of work conforms to the County Agreed Syllabus (available on request).
- c) The County Agreed Syllabus is reviewed regularly by SACRE and conforms to this legal requirement.
- d) Parents who wish to have their children withdrawn from Religious Education Classes may do so after discussion with the Headteacher. (This right is communicated to parents in the school prospectus.)
- e) The Religious Education Department reports on all students' progress at Key Stage 4 and in exam classes Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13.

3. **The Aims of Religious Education** (As taken from the Agreed Syllabus)

Work is planned and taught based upon the following RE process:

ISSUES: Questions 1. Exploring the issues or concepts, setting the context, asking the questions and findings out what pupils already know.

RELIGION: Content 2. Establishing new knowledge, getting to grips with content, finding out about the what, when, where and how of particular religious traditions and of religious or philosophical responses to the issues.

MEANING: Exploration 3. Investigating the impact of beliefs and practices on lifestyles, attitudes and action and considering the ways in which beliefs, spiritual insights and ideas are expressed understanding why people respond to life as they do.

LIFESTYLE: Reflection 4. Reflecting on the concept, on the responses from religious and philosophical traditions and setting this in the context of personal views and experiences.

In addition the department teaches to the aims of the relevant examination syllabuses (available on request).

4. **Acts of Worship**

The Head of Department is not responsible for acts of worship. The Head of Department constantly reviews the ways in which the college meets current legal requirements.

5. Details of Staffing, Resources, Accommodation and Curriculum are available within the Religious Education Department Handbook.

ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNORS ON: February 2018

POLICY REVIEW DATE: February 2020